

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**LUV N' CARE, LTD. and ADMAR
INTERNATIONAL, INC.,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**SHIBOLETH, LLP, and its members
and of counsel, AMNON SHIBOLETH,
OREN HEIMAN, CHARLES B.
MANUEL, and ROCHELLE R.
WEISBURG, and DOES 1-10,**

Defendants.

Civil Action No .

1:13-cv-04720-RRM-
JMA

Jury Trial Demanded

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Luv n' Care, Ltd. ("Luv n' Care") and Admar International, Inc. ("Admar") (collectively, "Plaintiffs" or "Luv n' Care"), by their attorneys, hereby complain of Defendants Shibolet, LLP, and its members Amnon Shibolet and Oren Heiman, and its "of counsel" Rochelle R. Weisburg and Charles B. Manuel and other Does 1-10 (collectively "Shibolet", or "Defendant(s)"), as follows:

1. This is an action (a) for fraud, and (b) for the legal malpractice committed by Shibolet in its legal representation of Luv n' Care in prior litigation for federal unfair competition, trademark infringement, and dilution under Section 43 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §1125, and for unfair competition, deceptive and unfair business practices under the common law and the law of the State of New York, and in particular with regard to a lawsuit entitled "*Luv n' Care et al. v. Walgreen Co., et al.*", Case No. 08 CIV 4457 (DC/HP), as filed 5/13/2008, and brought before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Luv n' Care is a corporation organized and existing

under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and having a principal place of business at 3030 Aurora Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201.

3. Plaintiff Admar is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and having a principal place of business at 3030 Aurora Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. Admar is an affiliate of Luv n' Care.

4. Upon information and belief, Defendant Shibolet, LLP is a domestic registered limited liability partnership of the State of New York, and has a principal place of business at 1 Penn Plaza, Ste. 2527, New York, New York, 10119.

5. Amnon Shibolet is a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of New York, a Member of Shibolet, LLP, a citizen of the Nation of Israel, and maintains a residence at 767 Montauk Highway, West Hampton Beach, New York 11978, within the jurisdiction of this Court, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

6. Oren Heiman is a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of New York, a Member of Shibolet, LLP, a citizen of the Nation of Israel and of the United States of America, State of New York, and upon

information and belief resides at 30 W 63rd Street, Apt. 8D, New York, New York 10023-7111.

7. [Omitted]

8. Charles B. Manuel is a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of New York, is represented to the Public and to Luv n' Care by Shibolet, LLP to be "Of Counsel" and "Head of Litigation" with Shibolet, LLP, and on information and belief is a citizen of the United States, State of Florida and resides with the State of New York.

9. Rochelle R. Weisburg is a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of New York, is "Of Counsel" with Shibolet, LLP, on information and belief is a citizen of the United States and/or Israel, and upon information and belief maintains a residence at 629 Kappock Street, Apt 4H, Bronx, New York 10463-7748.

10. Upon information and belief, Does 1-10, whose identities are presently unknown, are lawyers licensed to practice law in the State of New York, are Members of and/or are "of counsel" to Shibolet, LLP, on information and belief are citizens of the United States and/or Israel, and maintain residence(s) within New York State.

Jurisdiction and Venue

11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Shibolet, inasmuch as its lawyers are licensed to practice law in the State of New York, and the accused tortious activities of Shibolet, LLP occurred within the State of New York.

12. The Eastern District of New York has jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as the respective parties are citizens of different states and/or a foreign state, and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

13. Venue in the Eastern District of New York is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), as at least one of the Defendants resides in this district.

FACTS RELEVANT TO ALL CLAIMS

14. Shibolet holds itself out to the public as a law firm on the Internet at <http://www.shibolet.com/>. And in particular and at all times relevant hereto, Shibolet has held itself out to the public as having expertise in litigation and intellectual property law, as follows:

Shiboleth's experienced team of corporate and intellectual property attorneys helps clients in the technology, life sciences, industrial and other fields establish operations in the US, raise capital, operate legally and obtain and protect intellectual property rights in the United States and around the world. Our attorneys work closely with a variety of businesses and inventors, including well-established companies, venture capital companies and emerging companies with technological assets as well as not-for-profit organizations. We offer a variety of high-tech and intellectual property services, including:

Internet and E-Commerce. Our attorneys have experience addressing those legal issues more unique to Internet and e-commerce companies. These include advice with respect to jurisdictional issues, including exposure to lawsuits and claims; privacy rules; negotiation and preparation of agreements with vendors and suppliers of goods and services; and structuring strategic alliances and the preparation of legal documentation related thereto.

Technology Law. We provide services with respect to financing, including private placements and venture capital monies; structuring equity incentives for employees; protection of intellectual property rights; and drafting and negotiating agreements related to commercial exploitation of the technology, including marketing, licensing, and agency agreements.

Registering Trademarks, Copyrights and Patents. We offer our clients the ability to register trademarks, copyrights and design patents.

Litigating Intellectual Property Rights. We always seek to settle any dispute without court proceedings. When litigation is unavoidable, our litigators know how to fight for clients and protect their rights. We are also experienced in anti-counterfeiting and intellectual property enforcement matters

Intellectual Property Transactions. Whether our clients buy or sell their company or just a part of their portfolio, we are able to negotiate licenses and related agreements that protect the business and legal interests of our clients. Working closely with our corporate

department, we conduct due diligence reviews for a variety of corporate ventures and are able to record any changes of your IP registrations once the deal is complete.

See,

[http://web.archive.org/web/20090330193531/http://www.shibolet
h.com/hightech.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20090330193531/http://www.shibolet
h.com/hightech.htm), as captured by Archive.com on March 22,
2009.

15. At all times material hereto, Shibolet represented to the Public including Luv n' Care that one Morris E. Cohen, Esq. held the status, authority and responsibilities of "Of Counsel" to the Shibolet law firm, and expressly stated: "Morris E. Cohen is Of Counsel to the New York office. Morris began his legal career in 1994 and joined Shibolet in 2008." Wherefore, Mr. Cohen had indicia of authority, if not actual authority, to act as an agent within the scope of his duties as a lawyer in behalf of the principal Shibolet, and thus Shibolet is bound via principles of *respondeat superior* thereby. Moreover, Shibolet was aware that Mr. Cohen was representing Luv n' Care, and approved of and participated with Mr. Cohen in representing Luv n' Care, stating on Shibolet's website: "Recently, he served as lead counsel for the plaintiff in *Luv n' care, Ltd. v. Insta-Mix, Inc., et al.*, 438 F.3d 465 (5th Cir. 2006), *cert. denied*, 126 S. Ct. 2968, *reh'g. denied*, 127

S.Ct. 21 (2006).” *Id.*

16. At all times material hereto, Shiboletth represented to the public that one Rochelle R. Weisburg, Esq. held the status, authority and responsibilities of “Of Counsel” to the Shiboletth law firm, and expressly stated: “Rochelle R. Weisburg is Of Counsel to the New York office. Her practice focuses on bankruptcy and litigation in both state, federal, and bankruptcy court.” Wherefore, Ms. Weisburg had indicia of authority, if not actual authority, to act as an agent within the scope of her duties as a lawyer in behalf of the principal Shiboletth, and thus Shiboletth is bound via principles of *respondeat superior* thereby.

17. Yet further, Shiboletth accepted material responsibilities, including (i) docketing and other administrative work, and moreover (ii) legal work performed by Defendant Weisburg and other Shiboletth lawyers on and in regard to the lawsuit entitled “*Luv n’ Care et al. v. Walgreen Co., et al.*”, Case No. 08 CIV 4457 (DC/HP), and for which Shiboletth had billed, and which Luv n’ Care paid.

18. In addition, Shiboletth and particularly its Litigation Department, headed by and supervised by one Charles B. Manuel, Esq., represented and held out to the Public and to Luv n’ Care on Shiboletth’s website, as follows:

“Charles Manuel is Of Counsel and Head of Litigation for Shibolet LLP in New York.”

19. As an inducement to the Public and to Luv n’ Care to generate trust and confidence in the hopes of marketing its legal services, Shibolet, LLP had further represented to the Public and to Luv n’ Care that it had a “25+ member” law firm, when in truth the Members of its partnership were far fewer in number.

20. The Members of Shibolet, LLP had an uncompromising duty to supervise the work of the “Of Counsel” lawyers and non-lawyer employees of the Firm. And Mr. Manuel as “Head of Litigation” for Shibolet had an uncompromising duty to supervise the work of the lawyers in the firm and non-lawyer employees who did litigation work, and in particular those lawyers, including but not limited to Ms. Weisburg who did litigation work for Luv n’ Care. And Ms. Weisburg had a duty to supervise the work of non-employee workers at Shibolet who did work under her direction.

21. The Members of Shibolet, and Mr. Manuel and Ms. Weisburg, utterly failed in their duties of adequate supervision, as set forth in the prior paragraphs hereof.

22. Shibolet held out to the Public on its website and further represented to Luv n' Care, and which yet further formed material representations upon which Luv n' Care relied to entrust Shibolet with providing legal services to Luv n' Care in connection with such intellectual property litigation, as follows:

Shibolet is a boutique law firm with top-ranked practices in corporate, litigation, real estate and high-tech/IP. Through our office in New York and our affiliates in Tel Aviv and Shanghai, we offer our clients professional, responsive, ethical and cost-effective legal services in a personalized and amicable setting.

23. Shibolet had further represented to Luv n' Care that its such Litigation Department was "first class", and in particular possessed considerable experience in the litigation and trial of intellectual property cases, and except for Mr. Cohen, none of which was true. Ms. Weisburg was not an experienced litigation lawyer, and Mr. Manuel did not adequately train and supervise Ms. Weisburg and others of those Shibolet personnel who performed legal and/or administrative services on behalf of Luv n' Care. Nor did Mr. Manuel adequately supervise the docketing department of Shibolet that was charged with the responsibility of docketing significant dates in the litigation schedule of the said lawsuit of *Luv n' Care v. Walgreen Co. et al.*

24. Based upon these inducements and representations by Shibolet,

Luv n' Care in justifiable reliance thereon was induced to permit Shibolet to provide legal services in its behalf in connection with such litigation. However, Shibolet's Litigation Department and its personnel were inadequately trained, maintained and supervised by Mr. Manuel and others.

25. Shibolet through its authorized agents Attorneys Cohen and Weisburg and others who are lawyers with Shibolet and/or employees of Shibolet did provide legal services to Luv n' Care in the said intellectual property litigation before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the Complaint in such litigation having been filed on May 13, 2008. See Exhibit A hereof.

26. Subsequently, and on November 7, 2008, the assigned District Court judge in that case, Judge Chin, set a discovery cut-off date of May 1, 2009, and which was re-confirmed in the Court's Order of April 2, 2009. See Exhibit B hereof.

27. Shibolet did not serve timely written discovery requests, which under the Rules of the Court, require 30 days for response under Rule 33 (Interrogatories) and Rule 34 (Requests to Produce Documents and Things). Under the Rules of the Court, a discovery request which does not leave time sufficient before the close of discovery to require a response in accordance

with Rules 33 and/or 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is untimely and thus need not be answered.

28. After having had a substantial time in which to serve discovery requests, but negligently not having done so, and which was materially caused by Shibolet's inability to handle this type of work, and the negligence and neglect of the Shibolet docketing department, as unsupervised by Mr. Manuel, and by Defendant Weisburg, as unsupervised by the Head of Litigation, Mr. Manuel, and upon which Mr. Cohen had relied, and in an (albeit ineffective) attempt to reduce the severely damaging effects of its negligence in failing to file timely discovery requests, Shibolet further served a Notice of Deposition to take Walgreen's corporate deposition under Rule 30(b)(6) Fed. R. Civ. P., naming therein 66 diverse categories of subjects. See Exhibit C hereof.

29. Walgreen's consented to appear for deposition outside of the time permitted by the Court, but continued to object to the large number of belatedly requested categories, which had been caused by Shibolet's negligence.

30. At the deposition, Walgreen Co. supplied only some of the belatedly requested information on its sales and/or profits for (i) the copied

“two-pack soft top” and (ii) some others on the infringed “hard top cup”, but continued to refuse to produce information on the product lines comprising, *inter alia*, the infringing “pacifiers”, “baby bottles”, and “no-spill cups”, for example, and specifically refused to do so on the grounds that Shibolet had not made timely requests under the discovery schedule and discovery cut-off date set by the court, and under the Rules of the court. Thus, Shibolet had failed to obtain this vital information that hence materially damaged Luv n’ Care’s case against Walgreen Co., and specifically Luv n’ Care’s ability to present proof at trial in order to recover adequate and complete compensation for Walgreen’s infringements of Luv n’ Care’s intellectual property rights, and moreover Luv n’ Care’s lost sales of such products.

31. Moreover, and in its Order of February 4, 2010 denying Shibolet’s dilatory motion to transfer and/or to amend, the Court had yet further noted that Shibolet had materially misstated the facts regarding the discovery cut-off date and Shibolet’s belated discovery requests. See Exhibit D hereof.

32. Yet further, Shibolet negligently failed to provide an appropriate expert report, resulting in the Court ordering that the proffered expert witness would not be permitted to testify thereon at the trial of the cause.

33. Thus, Shibolet, LLP -- in violation of its ethical duty of diligent

and competent representation -- had failed to obtain admissible evidence of yet further actual damages and/or profits of the Defendant Walgreen Co., due to Shibolet's negligent failure to serve timely discovery requests, and failure thereafter even to attempt to cure its negligence.

34. Subsequently, the case was settled with Walgreen Co. paying \$1.5 million in damages/profits based upon the partial discovery of only about 20% of the actual total of Walgreen's sales of the accused infringing products, but not including any discovery on multiple millions of dollars of additional sales of infringing products. Hence, if timely discovery had been served and properly pursued by Shibolet, Luv n' Care would have received a yet further monetary recovery.

35. Notwithstanding the above incidents of Shibolet's negligence and malpractice, and particularly including the negligence, malfeasance and neglect of Shibolet's docketing department, *inter alia*, as unsupervised by Mr. Manuel, and the devastating effect thereof that had severely limited the amount of Luv n' Care's monetary recovery based upon Walgreen's infringement of Luv n' Care's intellectual property rights, and which had resulted in a substantial diminution of Luv n' Care's sales and profitability, Shibolet fraudulently and actively concealed the above material facts from

Luv n' Care.

36. Shibolet's legal representation of Luv n' Care continued with regard to the same subject matter of representation wherein the malpractice had been committed until at least as late as dismissal of the underlying lawsuit on the October 6, 2010.

FIRST COUNT (Legal Malpractice)

37. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation hereinabove set forth with the same force and effect as if more fully hereinafter set forth.

38. Shibolet failed to exercise the reasonable skill and knowledge commonly possessed by members of the legal profession in this legal community. As a result, Shibolet committed legal malpractice through the at least the following acts:

- a. failure to serve appropriate and timely discovery requests on the subject of accused sales and damages/profits;
- b. failure to obtain admissible evidence of more than \$6 million in actual damages or profits of the Defendant Walgreen, due to said failure to serve timely discovery requests;
- c. failure to advise Luv n' Care about Defendant's said tardy discovery, and comprising acts of nonfeasance, malfeasance, and misfeasance;

- d. failure to bring a motion for further discovery (out-of time) on sales and damages/profits;
- e. failure to bring a motion for shortening the discovery response period to less than 30 days to permit discovery within the discovery period as ordered by the Court;
- f. materially misstating the facts to the Court regarding Shibolet's failure to serve timely discovery requests;
- g. failure to provide an appropriate and timely expert report;
- h. failure to advise Luv n' Care regarding Shibolet's fraudulent and active concealment of Shibolet's malpractice; and
- i. failure to properly docket litigation due dates and especially the discovery cut-off date ordered by the court.

39. Luv n' Care would have recovered monies for all its injuries, including those related to lost sales, income, and profits thereunder, and/or would have achieved a substantially larger settlement from Walgreen Co., but-for Shibolet's several acts of negligence, which individually and collectively had proximately caused severe damage to Luv n' Care.

40. As a result of Shibolet's misconduct including legal malpractice and fraud, Luv n' Care has been damaged not only with regard to the Walgreen Co. lawsuit and the settlement thereof, but potentially with regard to all infringers of Luv n' Care's rights in subsequent litigation, and further because such inadequate Walgreen settlement figures would be discoverable

and would be presented to those courts as standing precedent. Accordingly, the Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but which is believed will be in an amount of not less than \$10 million.

SECOND COUNT (Fraud)

41. The allegations of each of the foregoing paragraphs are respectfully incorporated by reference.

42. Shibolet's above representations and inducements to Luv n' Care (i) were in regard to the material matters of the experience, capabilities and qualifications of the lawyers of Shibolet and its personnel to provide legal services to and in particular to represent Luv n' Care adequately and professionally in the provision of legal services in regard to litigation matters significantly affecting Luv n' Care's intellectual property rights, (ii) were false, (iii) were knowingly false, (iv) were made with intent and knowledge that Luv n' Care would rely thereon, (v) which Luv n' Care justifiably did so rely, and (vi) which were to Luv n' Care's substantial damage and detriment.

43. Shibolet's said conduct constitutes fraud.

44. Shibolet's said fraud was committed within the relevant Statute of Limitations for fraud of six (6) years.

45. Shibolet's fraud can only be redressed thru the grant of significant compensatory and punitive damages, and with an appropriate injunction to prevent Shibolet from committing such further conduct to damage yet other members of the Public.

Jury Demand

A jury trial is respectfully demanded on all matters so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Luv n' Care demands judgment against defendants Shibolet LLP, and its Members Amnon Shibolet and Oren Heiman, and its "Of Counsel" Charles B. Manuel and Rochelle R. Weisburg, and any others designated as Does 1-10 herein, jointly and severally, as follows:

- a. On each of the First and Second Counts against Defendants in the sum of at least \$10 million each, or such other amount as may be determined upon the trial of this action;
- b. Suitable punitive damages to deter others from such conduct and to punish the wrongdoer Defendants, and specifically in a Constitutionally permissible amount not to exceed 10X of the recovery for actual damages;

- c. The costs and disbursements of this action;
- d. Reasonable attorney's fees; and
- e. Such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted, this 11th day of November, 2013,

/s/Anthony H. Handal

Anthony H. Handal

N.Y. Fed. Bar No. AH5104

(Admitted in NY 1/16/75)

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